

**6301 – Wilderness Characteristics Inventory
Summary of Findings and Conclusions**

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-335-1 Pinto Mountains

Summary: The unit was split into two units, 335-1-1 and 335-1-2. 335-1-1 was determined to lack naturalness and solitude due to the encroachment of urban influences, excessive route intrusions, and mining impacts. The analysis has found that unit 335-1-2 contains wilderness characteristics. The unit's natural vegetation is very archetypical of the Mojave Desert. These plants include yucca, creosote, and Joshua tree. The topography of the unit consists of hills and mountains, along with rock outcroppings and deep lakebed valleys. The impact of man is concentrated in the southeastern part of the unit, and appears to only be consistent with inactive mining. The past mining does not affect the natural, primitive aesthetic of the region due to mines being primarily tucked into the hills along overgrown and unused routes that are barely identifiable. The opportunities to achieve outstanding solitude are present throughout the unit especially in the western portion of the unit. The topography, the natural vegetation, and the remoteness of the area enhance these opportunities.

Results of analysis:

- 1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? Yes No
- 2. Does the area appear to be natural? Yes No N/A
- 3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? Yes No N/A
- 4. Does the area have supplemental values? Yes No N/A

Conclusion:

The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by:(Name, Title, Date)

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Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):

Name: [Signature] Title: Barstow Field Manager
Date: 8/13/15

* This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.

FORM 1

Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings from Previous Inventory on Record

1. Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?

Yes X No

Inventory Source: California Desert Conservation Area – Wilderness Inventory – Final Descriptive Narratives – March 31, 1979

Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s): CDCA-080-335

Map Name(s)/Number(s): USDI BLM California Desert Wilderness Final Inventory 1979

BLM District(s)/Field Office(s): California Desert District, Barstow Field Office

2. BLM Inventory Findings on Record:

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
Area 335	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Description: The 1979 report found that the area was of sufficient size. The report stated that public lands were predominant, with private lands accounting for about 10 percent of the total area and were widely scattered. The vegetation of the unit was described as being predominately creosote, with yucca prevailing in the interior valleys. The report deemed that certain areas of the unit were not primarily shaped by the forces of nature. The Music Valley, Marbolite, and Humbug Mountain mining areas were said to detract from the naturalness of the area greatly. The remnants of old stone cabins, tunnels, road cuts, and slag piles were said to detract from the primeval character that exists in certain parts of the unit. After the exclusion of these mining areas, the region was said to generally retain its natural character. Opportunities for solitude were said to be outstanding due to the variety of topography found in the mountains and the location's proximity to the Joshua Tree National Monument Wilderness. In summary, the unit received favor to be included in further study on wilderness value criteria. The mining areas were encouraged to not be included.

FORM 2

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-335-1 Pinto Mountains Total Acreage: 60,189

Contiguous BLM acreage: 58,550 acres

Unit 335-1-1: 52,935 acres

Unit 335-1-2: 5,615 acres

(1) Is the unit of sufficient size?

Yes X No _____

Boundaries: State Highway 62 borders Unit 335-1 to the north, Pinto Mountain Wilderness borders it to the south and Joshua Tree National Park borders it on the west and east. The unit is divided internally into subunits 335-1-1 and 335-1-2 along PLSS lines due to substantially unnatural areas.

Unit 335-1-1

(2) Does the unit appear to be natural?

Yes _____ No X N/A _____

Natural Condition: The forces of nature do not predominately affect unit 335-1-1 due to heavy amounts of human activity, including current and historic mining activity and urban encroachment. Due to its unnatural condition, this report does not discuss 335-1-1 further.

Unit 335-1-2

(2) Does the unit appear to be natural?

Yes X No _____ N/A _____

Natural Condition: The forces of nature hold significant sway over unit 335-1-2. There is little to no evidence of man or his works in this region, and changes to the area appear to be caused wholly by the elements.

Land Ownership: The total acreage of the unit is 5,615. The BLM owns the entire 5,615 acres of the unit.

Location: The unit is located south of State Highway 62 and to the north of Pinto Mountain Wilderness Study Area and Pinto Mountains Wilderness. Joshua Tree National Park lies east and west of the area.

Topography: The topography of the unit consists of steep rounded hills interspersed by valleys and bajadas. The unit contains Twentynine Palms Mountains, along with portions of the Pinto Mountains and Humbug Mountains. The unit also contains some large rock outcroppings and tall granite hills.

Vegetation features: The dominant vegetation the unit is the Mojave Yucca. The unit also contains some Joshua trees and Smoke trees. The eastern part of the unit is predominately creosote bushes and low-lying shrubs.

Major Human Uses/Activities: There is noticeable human activity within this unit, notably in the forms of recreation and mining activity. However, these do not take away from the naturalness of the area as they do not occur in significant amounts throughout the unit.

(3) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes X No ____ N/A ____

Solitude can be found throughout the unit 335-1-2, most notably in the valleys of the large mountains in the area.

(4) Does the unit have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ____ No X N/A ____

While unconfined recreation such as camping and hiking would be enjoyable in unit 335-1-2, it does not exist in an outstanding capacity.

(5) Does the unit have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value)?

Yes ____ No X N/A ____

There are no supplemental values within this unit.

Appendix A

BLM California Desert Conservation Area Wilderness Final Inventory, Dec. 1979
Written Description of Area 335

regarding roads and mining activity. Other comments opposed to inclusion were too general in nature to field validate.

AREA 334

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The northern and western boundaries of this roadless area are contiguous with the Joshua Tree National Monument. The eastern boundary is a dirt maintained road. The southern boundary consists of a mining road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Approximately 30 percent of the area is in non-public land forming a slender irregular shape near the middle. The western third is completely in public land.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

This area is characterized by boulders and rugged mountains dissected by numerous small canyons. A small portion of the relatively flat to rolling Pinto Basin is within the western portion and contains scattered creosotes.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

The western one-third of the area is affected primarily by the forces of nature where the imprint of man's work is substantially unrecognizable. In contrast, the eastern two-thirds is heavily impacted by extensive open pit mining scars. Numerous tunnels, shafts, and tailings lace this area, thus altering the natural appearance of the landscape. Roads to "satellite" mining and exploration areas radiate north and westward from the Eagle Mountain Mine, degrading the natural character of the mountains up to the ridgelines where the border of Joshua Tree National Monument is located. The eastern boundary of the resulting potential study area has been adjusted westward to the first ridgeline of the mountains, near the Cactus Mine.

V. CONSIDERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

The ruggedness and diversity of terrain, which tends to screen visitors from one another, as well as adjacency to Joshua Tree National Monument wilderness, all tend to create outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

A few comments were received supporting the inclusion of the west portion of the area for further wilderness study. The comments also urged the addition of portions of the mountains between Joshua Tree National Monument and the Eagle Mountain Mine. However, mining activities affect the natural character up to the ridgeline, which coincides with the Monument border. Mining interests expressed concern that future expansion of current mining operations would be restricted by wilderness study designation. This concern is not an inventory factor.

AREA 335

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

The area is bounded to the north by State Highway 62, to the east, by the graded Cold Creek Road, and, to the south and west, by Joshua Tree National Monument and a short segment of a paved road leading into the Monument from Twenty-nine Palms.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

Public lands predominate. Non-public sections occur in a widely scattered pattern and account for approximately 10 percent of the total area.

III. DESCRIPTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Most of the area is dominated by steep, but generally rounded, hills, vegetated with creosotes and mixed desert shrubs. Vegetation becomes more diverse in the washes, consisting of snake trees and other typical wash-type plants. Stands of Mojave yucca exist in many of the interior valleys. An extensive bajada skirts the northern edge of the mountains, sloping northeast to non-public lands and homesteads and eventually to State Highway 62.

IV. NATURAL CONDITIONS

Certain portions of the area have been excluded from further wilderness consideration due to man's impacts which affect the natural condition and limit opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Such exclusions include the Marble Mine area; a well graded road leading up to entrance installations on the north tip of Twenty-nine Palms Mountain; non-public property; and, Shull Tract Act old stone cabins, tunnels, and some old access-work roads. The Basking Mountain and Marble Mine mining areas have sustained intensive mining activity in the past. The relocations within the excluded area. After exclusions, the remainder of the area generally retains its primitive character. Most boundaries follow the top of ridges, so the general features have little influence on the natural character of the interior.

V. CONSIDERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOLITUDE OR A PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPE OF RECREATION

In the non-excluded portions, opportunities for solitude are outstanding due to the variety of topography found in the mountains and the numerous enclosed areas. In addition, the adjacent Joshua Tree National Monument Wilderness Area expands opportunities for solitude, as well as providing outstanding opportunities for a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

VI. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Most of the comments received favored the area's inclusion for further study based on wilderness value criteria and location adjacent to Joshua Tree National Monument wilderness. Many urged expansion of the boundaries through rehabilitation of the mining scars, although rehabilitations would require mechanical means. A few comments dealt with roads and mines which have been excluded where appropriate.

AREA 336

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area is bounded by Joshua Tree National Monument on the east and the north; by the Berdoo Canyon Road to the northeast; and, on the south, by Fargo Canyon Road and the Colorado River Aqueduct maintenance road.

II. LAND OWNERSHIP

This area does not contain 5000 acres of contiguous public lands because of the checkerboard pattern for is the area of sufficient size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition.

III. SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Many comments were received on this area. Most indicated a desire to include the parcel in wilderness study as a buffer for Joshua Tree National Monument. There were also quite a number of comments asking that the area be deleted from any wilderness designation due to the effects of off-road vehicle use.

AREA 336A

I. PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES

This area borders Joshua Tree National Monument to the north; a paved road to the west; the Berdoo Canyon Road to the south.

**Appendix B
Route Analysis Table**

Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed Mechanically or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular or continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road
JT 1901	Connects to JT 1904.	No	No	Yes	No	No
JT 1901B	Unknown	No	No	Yes	No	No
JT 1903	Connects to JT 1904	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1904	Connects to JT 1905	No	No	Yes	No	No
JT 1905	Leads to Goat Basin and Carlos Jr. Mines.	No	No	Yes	No	No
JT 1905A	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1905C	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1906	Connects to JT 1909	No	No	Yes	No	No
JT 1907	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1912	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1912A	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1912D	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1909	Pass around Twentynine Palms Mtn.	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1915	Connects to Marbolite Mine.	No	No	Yes	No	No
JT 1919	Leads to Gypsy, Mana, and Groove Mines.	No	Yes; berms present	Yes	No	No
JT 1919A	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1926	Leads to Imperial Mine.	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1928		No	No	No	No	No
JT 1927; Old Dale Road	Connects to southeastern mining access routes.	No	No	Yes	No	No
JT 1929	Leads to private area.	No	No	No	No	No

Route #	Purpose	ROW	Constructed Mechanically or Improved Mechanically	Is it in regular or continuous use	Maintenance if needed	WIU Road
JT 1918	Leads to mine.	No	No	Yes	No	No
JT 1930	Unknown	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1923	Leads onto Humbug Mountain	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1934; Gold Crown Road	Leads into southeastern mining areas.	No	Yes	No	No	No
JT 1931	Leads to southeastern mining areas.	No	No	No	No	No
JT 1938	Leads to Lorman Mine.	No	No	No	No	No

Appendix C – Photo Log

Photographer(s): Andrew Lee, Peter Brisbane

Inventory Area Unique Identifier: CA-080-335-1 Pinto Mountains

Date	Camera Direction	Description	GPS/UTM Location	Township	Range	Sec.	Photo Point #
6/19/15	SE	Concrete barrier	34.056102, -115.994538	1S	9E	25	1
6/19/15	N	Rusted cans	34.028022, -115.984385	2S	9E	2	2
6/19/15	SW	Abandoned mine	34.052983, -115.976156	1S	10E	1	3
6/22/15	SW	Mining claim	34.062108, -115.772170	1S	12E	30	4
6/22/15	N	Naturalness, deep wash	34.059242, -115.781860	1S	11E	25	5
6/22/15	E	Naturalness, route fading	34.057643, -115.811523	1S	11E	27	6
6/22/15	NE	Vast naturalness, hills/valleys	33.985747, -115.745207	2S	12E	20	7
6/23/15	N	Abandoned mine	34.065443 -115.778662	1S	11E	24	8
6/23/15	W	Solitude, vegetation	34.065303, -115.766675	1S	11E	19	9
6/23/15	SE	Old rubble from mining site	34.000585, -115.716360	2S	12E	15	10
6/23/15	E	Route dead end, solitude	33.997315, -115.716917	2S	12E	15	11
6/23/15	SE	Vast naturalness, hills/valleys	33.988277, -115.713813	2S	12E	15	12
6/23/15	SW	Route dead end, solitude	33.988177, -115.720051	2S	12E	21	13



Photo 1: Facing southeast, route JT 1905 through mountain pass. Old mine (upper left). Concrete barrier on hill (center). Small rock wall and path (center right).



Photo 2: Facing north, old dumpsite, near abandoned mining site, with a large pile of rusted cans.



Photo 3: Facing east, covered abandoned mine shaft. Mine entrance is caved in nearby.



Photo 4: Facing southwest, route off of JT 1925 with sign for current mining claim. One of the few signs of current activity in the unit, most mining in the area seems abandoned.



Photo 5: Facing north, wash with deep carved out channel. Area seems very natural and provides moderate topographical screening.



Photo 6: JT 1926 facing east, one of several drivable open routes that are barely distinguishable from the surrounding ground. This is one of many very rocky areas with very sparse vegetation.



Photo 7: Facing northeast, looking down from hillside. Vast area of hills and deep valleys, appears to extremely natural with no signs of human impact.



Photo 8: Facing north, abandoned mine with protective fencing. One of several similar sites in the unit.



Photo 9: Facing west, vegetative screening. Vegetation is quite large and dense in many of the washes of the unit.



Photo 10: Facing southeast, near abandoned mine. Concrete foundations for several old buildings, this is the largest of several abandoned sites found.



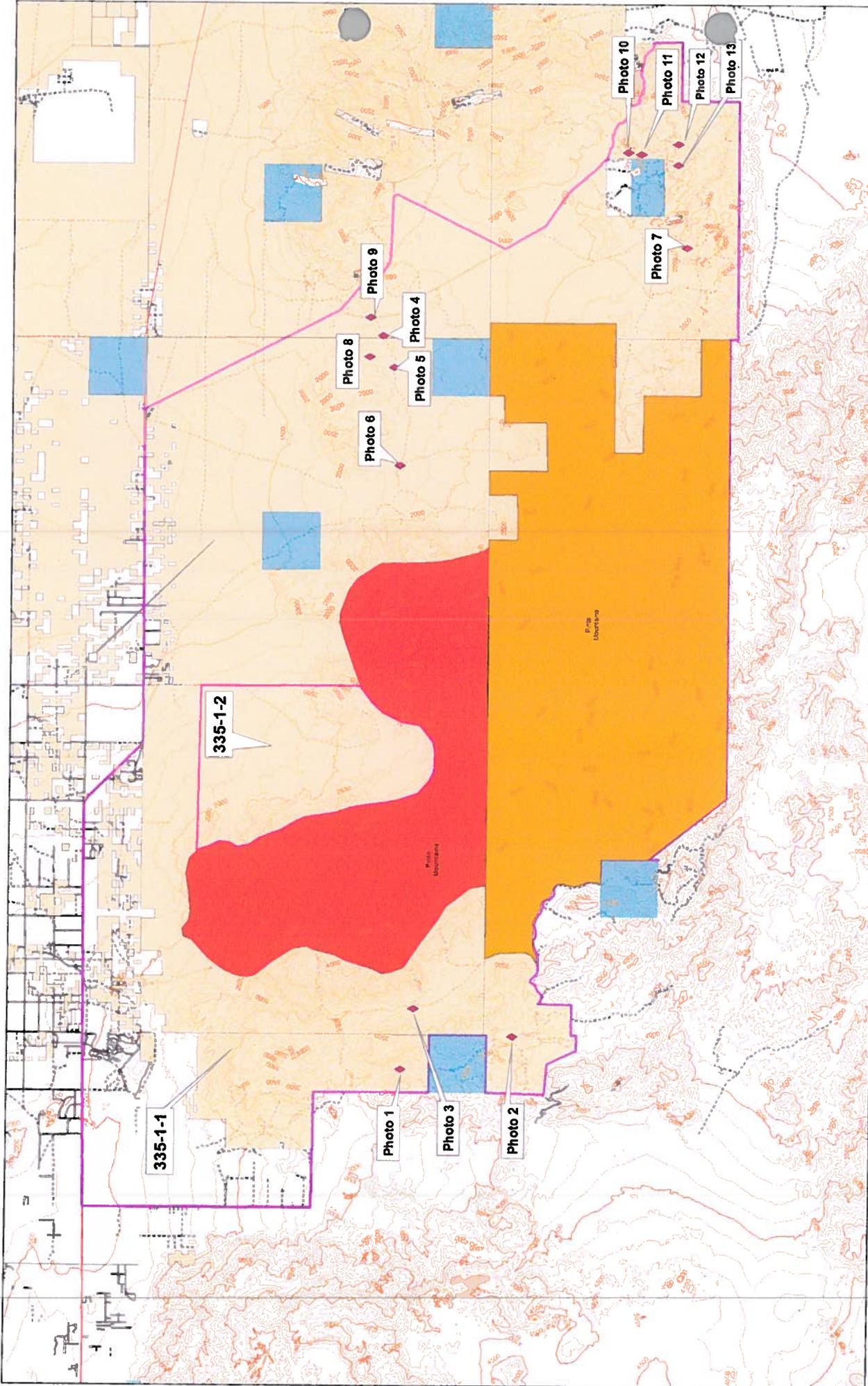
Photo 11: Facing east, route through hills dead ends in wash. Strong feeling of solitude as there are hills on all sides. Huge deposit of hardened mud on left that appears to be associated with nearby mine.



Photo 12: Facing southeast, from hilltop with deep drop off on left. Surrounded by vast natural area full of hills and valleys. Route JT 1920 becomes extremely rough ahead.



Photo 13: Facing southwest, route dead ends. Great topographical screening, and feeling of solitude.



LWC Unit 335-1 Pinto Mountain Map 1

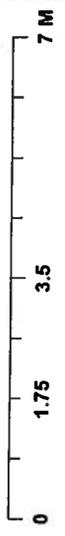


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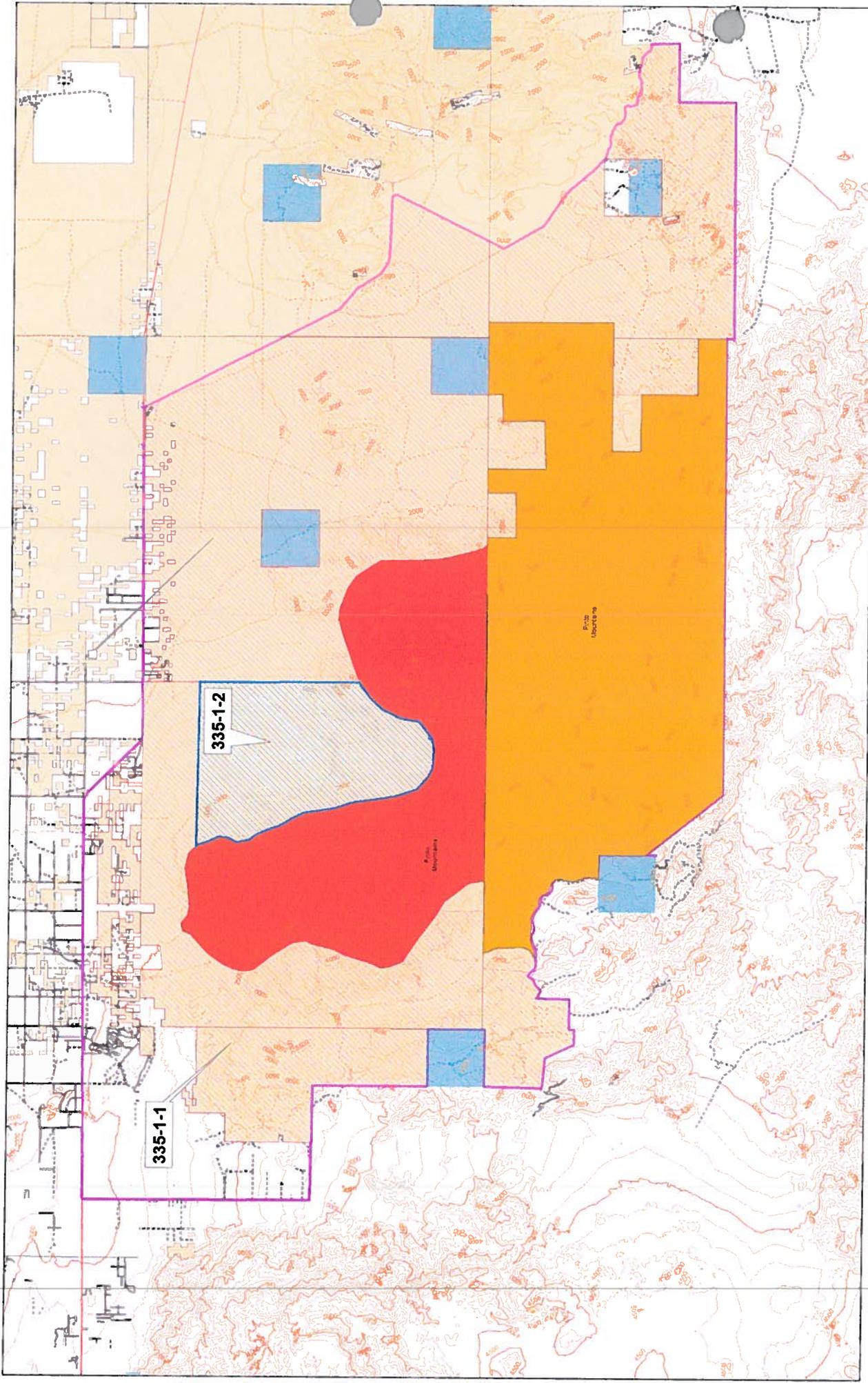
Author: Jen Houts Date: 8/13/2015



1 inch = 6,667 feet



- Legend**
- ◆ PhotoPoint
 - Unit Boundary
 - Unit Partition
 - BLM Wilderness Study Areas selection
 - NLCS Wilderness Boundary selection
- Property Ownership**
- Interstate
 - Major US
 - Major State
 - Major City
 - Unpaved
 - 4wd
 - ATV, Motorcycle
- BLM
 - DOD
 - FS
 - PVT
 - ST



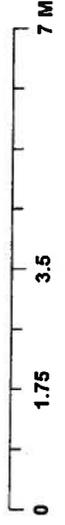
LWC Unit 335-1 Pinto Mountain Map 2

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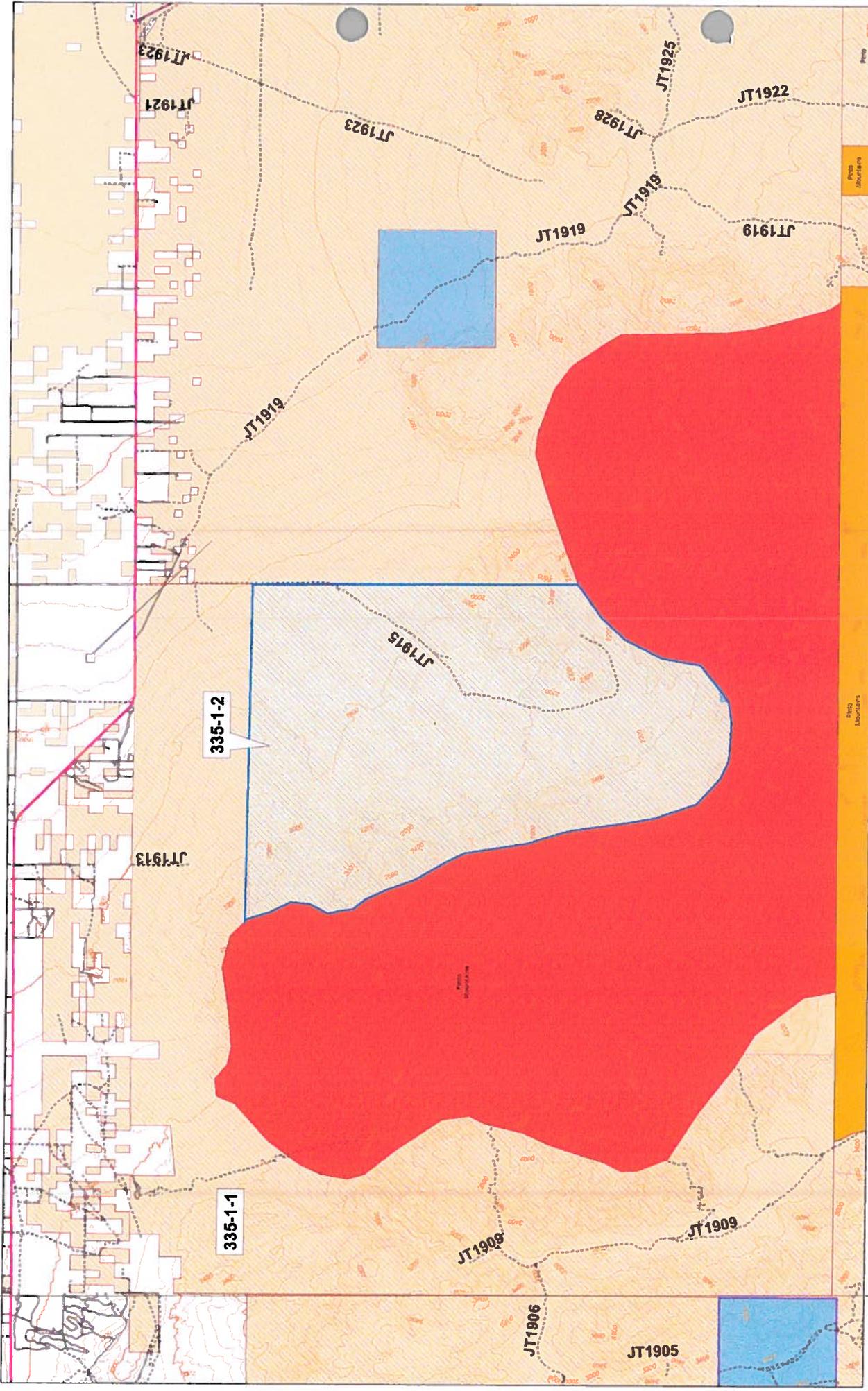
Author: Jen Houts Date: 8/13/2015



1 inch = 6,667 feet



- Legend**
- Unit Boundary
 - Wilderness Characteristic
 - No Wilderness Characteristics
 - BLM Wilderness Study Areas selection
 - NLCS Wilderness Boundary selection
- Property Ownership**
- Interstate
 - MajorUS
 - MajorState
 - MajorCity
 - Unpaved
 - 4wd
 - ATV, Motorcycle
- BLM
 - DOD
 - FS
 - PVT
 - ST



LWC Unit 335-1 Pinto Mountain Map 3



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Author: Jen Houts Date: 8/13/2015

Legend

Wilderness Characteristic	Interstate
No Wilderness Characteristics	Major US
NCLS Wilderness Boundary selection	Major State
BLM Wilderness Study Areas selection	Major City
	Unpaved
	4wd
	ATV, Motorcycle
	Unit Boundary

Property Ownership

BLM	DOD
FS	PVT
ST	

1 inch = 3,265 feet

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

N